Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—That does not solve the problem. We have 273 logs less here. What is it due to ?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—The floods carried away a good lot of them, and the number of logs so carried away is given.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—What is the reason for the verification ?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—It was due to the flood damage.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—How many logs were missing ?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—In Appendix IX, the number of logs given in *minus* are missing.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Were there none to keep the logs there ?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—When there was 10 feet of water, how was it possible ?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—The forest is the safest place to live in the time of flood.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—There was 10 feet of water in the Tramway lines ; and we can imagine the safety there.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know when the report was submitted ?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—The preliminary report was sent soon after the flood, and the verification report after the last hot weather.

The sale of Sirkar elephants.

395. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was recently a sale of Sirkar elephants without advertising the sale in the Gazette or otherwise ?

(b) is there any precedent of such sale in the past ?

(c) why was this extraordinary procedure adopted ?

(d) how many elephants were sold on this occasion, and what price did they fetch ? How much money had the Government to spend on account of these elephants since their capture ?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—(a) Yes. (b) Yes.

(c) The procedure was adopted in the best interests of Government.

(d) Three elephants were sold on the occasion, and the price fetched by them was Rs. 2,300. The total amount spent on account of the animals since their capture was Rs. 532-9-10.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Part-(b).—Is there any precedent of such a sale in the past ? If so, when was it ?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—One was in Mr. Alwar Chettiar's time and the other in Mr. Bhore's time.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Can the Hon'ble Member give the exact date ?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—At present it is not possible, but, if required, it shall be placed on the table at the next meeting. It is, I think, 1916 or 1917.

Mr C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—So no enquiry was made on this occasion. Was there any private person ?

Mr K. Govinda Menon.—No, Sir.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Then what are the ages of these elephants ?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—I can only give you approximately. One was about one year and six months, another nine months and another six months.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—What was the hurry to sell these elephants, when nobody was coming forth ?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—There was a good offer received, and I was afraid that they may even die.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—How could the public be able to know that there are elephants for sale without advertisement ?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—We do not sell generally.

President.—Are you personally sure that advertisement would bring in better offers.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Personally, I was willing to purchase one.

Mr K. Govinda Menon.—There was one about 9 months old in Trichur. Why did not the member make an offer for that ?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—That is not the regular way of doing business. Then it is just like the ordinary bargain, giving and taking.

A certain article in the "Suprabhatam" regarding the Forest Department.

396. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pease d to state:

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly